

## **Senator Mike Rounds Congressional Staff**

Kim Olson, State Director

### **South Dakota Hot Topics**

- The Air Force continues to investigate the PFCs (PFAS/PFOA) at Ellsworth AFB. The highest priority currently is defining where wells or other drinking water may be impacted and providing alternate water supplies. The plume extends off base to an extent the Air Force is trying to define. Other work includes initial delineation of contaminated soil areas and a treatability study to see if PFC-contaminated soils can be stabilized or encapsulated.
- Expected EPA proposal of Modifications to Fuel Regulations to Provide Flexibility for E15 (SD is the sixth largest producer of ethanol)
- Dewey Burdock Uranium In-Situ Recovery Project in Edgemont, SD: EPA expects to finalize UIC Class III and Class V and associated aquifer exemptions for the project in 2020. South Dakota will need to complete work on a large-scale mining permit before the project can begin.

### **Congressional Bio**

On January 6th, 2015, Senator Marion Michael “Mike” Rounds was sworn into the United States Senate. Senator Rounds serves on four committees: Senate Armed Services; Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs; Veterans’ Affairs; and Environment and Public Works.

Rounds previously served as the 31st governor of South Dakota from 2003 – 2011, easily winning reelection in 2006. From 1991 to 2000, he was elected five times to the South Dakota State Senate. In 1995, his colleagues selected him to serve as Senate Majority Leader, a position that he held for six years. During his time in state government, Rounds was committed to growing the economy, keeping taxes low and strengthening South Dakota families.

A lifelong South Dakotan, Senator Rounds was born in Huron, the eldest of 11 siblings. He earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from South Dakota State University. In the private sector, Rounds built a successful insurance and real estate business with offices throughout the state. He and his wife, Jean, currently reside in Fort Pierre. They are the proud parents of four grown children and 10 grandchildren.

### **Committee Assignments:**

[ [HYPERLINK "http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/"](http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/) \t "\_blank" ]

The Committee on Armed Services is a committee of the United States Senate empowered with legislative oversight of the nation's military, including the Department of Defense, military research and development, nuclear energy, benefits for members of the military, the Selective Service System and other matters related to defense policy. Considered one of the most powerful Senate committees, its broad mandate allowed it to report some of the most extensive and revolutionary legislation during the Cold War years, including the National Security Act of 1947.

Senator Rounds additionally serves on the following Armed Services subcommittees: Readiness, and Seapower. Senator Rounds serves as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Cybersecurity.

[ HYPERLINK "http://www.banking.senate.gov/public" \t "\_blank" ]

The United States Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs has jurisdiction over matters related to banks and banking, price controls, deposit insurance, export promotion and controls, federal monetary policy, financial aid to commerce and industry, issuance of redemption of notes, currency and coinage, public and private housing, urban development and mass transit and government contracts.

Senator Rounds additionally serves on the following Banking subcommittees: Housing, Transportation, and Community Development Committee, Securities, Insurance, and Investment Committee, and the National Security and International Trade and Finance Committee.

[ HYPERLINK "http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/" \t "\_blank" ]

The United States Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works is responsible for dealing with matters related to the environment and infrastructure. Senator Rounds serves as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management and Regulatory Oversight.

[ HYPERLINK "http://www.veterans.senate.gov/" \t "\_blank" ]

The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs has jurisdiction over compensation of veterans, life insurance issued by the government due to military service, national cemeteries, pensions, and readjustment of service men and women to civilian life.

### **Key Priorities:**

Mike's key priorities are agriculture, banking, budget, cybersecurity, education, energy, environment, family values, health care, immigration, jobs and the economy, legislation, national security, overregulation, second amendment, small business, taxes, tribal relations, veterans and trade.

### **What he's working on now (in addition to the coronavirus)**

Rounds joins Thune, Johnson and more than 140 members of Congress in letter urging USDA to provide immediate assistance to cattle producers 4/1/20

Rounds unveils three-pronged approach to address cattle market crisis 3/19/20

Delegation urges SBA to grant South Dakota's economic loan request 3/19/20

Rounds, 17 colleagues reintroduce bill to protect military families; second amendment rights 3/12/20

Rounds joins Thune, colleagues in letter to Ag Secretary Sonny Perdue to share concerns with Brazilian beef imports 2/28/20